THE Slanderer Rebuked:

OR,

The Vindication of Thomas Grantham *againſt the malicious Slanders of one Mr.* Toathby, *a Seller of Wool in the City of* Norwich.

IT is now about fourteen Years, I think, ſince two of my Neighbours being deſired by me to coard or geld a Ram for me, one of them, (*Robert Hareby* by Name) having Ground joining unto mine, finding a Ram (very much like mine) in his Paſture, caught him, (verily thinking he was mine) and brought him to my Yard, where my other Neighbour (Mr. *John Lark* by Name) did coard him, as I had formerly deſired him, and let him go, not doubting but he was mine, and they both knew my Sheep as well as my ſelf. * But we were all miſtaken, for this Ram proved a poor Man's, who dwelt near us; and the Ram dying of his Gelding, the Owner complained, and deſired my ſelf and Mr. *Lark* to conſider his Loſs, which I willingly did, and gave him half the Value of his Ram, which was ſix Shillings eight Pence: and here was an end of the Buſineſs without Sute or Trouble, though ſome ill Men adviſed the poor Man to ſue us, and to put us to Trouble.

But as ill Men deſire to abuſe the Innocent, ſo this Accident became a Reproach to me; and from gelding a Ram, they turn'd it to ſtealing a Ram. But my Neighbours knowing my

* *This Account is teſtified under the Hands of* John Hareby (*Brother to the ſaid* Robert Hareby) *Mr.* Roger Lark, (*Son to the ſaid Mr.* John Lark) Tho. Atkin, *and* William Bradſhaw, *Anno* 1680. *who all are yet living* (*except* John Hareby).

Innocency, did vindicate my Reputation, ſo that the Clamor ceaſed in thoſe parts where I then lived, [*which was at* Aſhby *next* Spilsby *in the County of* Lincoln] inſomuch that none but vile Perſons would ſo much as mention it.

Now ſince I came to dwell in *Norwich*, there came a Seller of Wool under the Title of Mr. *Toathby*, (whom I could not ſee, though I went to his Inn as ſoon as I heard of him) and he was pleaſed to reproach me by this Accident, in the vileſt manner that might be, (as the Inn-keeper told me) and his Slander was very pleaſing to ſuch as delight in Falſhood, inſomuch as I found it needful to detect this lying Slander, by the Teſtimony of ſuch of my Neighbours at *Aſhby* aforeſaid, who are yet living, and who very well know the Circumſtances of this matter. What I wrote to them, with their Anſwers, I ſhall here commit to Poſterity, to detect the Wickedneſs of ſuch as have or hereafter ſhall attempt to abuſe me upon this occaſion.

To my loving Neighbours in Aſhby *next* Spilsby, *Greeting*, &c.

SIRS,

I am now ſettled (as the place of my Reſidence) in the City of *Norwich*; and here came a Perſon out of *Lincolnſhire*, a Seller of combed Wool; and defamed me as a great Rogue, and a † Tup-ſtealer. Now ſome of you being yet living to teſtify how innocent I was in that Accident, which happened by the Over-ſight of *Robert Hareby* and Mr. *John Lark* (our Neighbours,) in bringing up to my Yard, and coarding a Ram for mine, which, unknown to them and my ſelf, was another Man's, as you very well know. I do therefore earneſtly intreat you, to ſend me your Teſtimony of the Truth concerning this matter, and of my Converſation among you, for I am much abuſed by the falſe Report of this unworthy Perſon. You have heard Mr. *Lark* ſpeak of this matter, and his Son can teſtify the ſame. Thus with my kind Love to you all, I remain,

† *In* Lincolnſhire *they call a Ram a Tup.*

Your Loving Neighbour,

Tho. Grantham.

Norwich
May 1. 1691.

The

The Teſtimony of my Neighbours in Aſhby *aforeſaid,* May 7, 1691.

THeſe are to ſatisfy whom it may concern, That whereas our Neighbour *Thomas Grantham*, late of *Aſhby*, in the County of *Lincoln*, and now Reſident in *Norwich*, hath been defamed by ſome Perſon for ſtealing a Tup: We do here teſtify that he is innocent as to what he is charged withal in that caſe, and that the ſaid *Thomas Grantham* did not intentionally nor actually do any unlawful Act or Deed; and that in reſpect of his Behaviour amongſt us his Neighbours, he was always accounted a very honeſt Man, and a good Neighbour.

Witneſs our Hands,

George Coddington, *Thomas Atkin*,
John Robiſon, *Anthony Robiſon*.

Note that theſe Gentlemen who have given theſe Teſtimonies, are all of the Church of England, *except one; and they offer the Teſtimony of many more if it be deſired.*

May 7, 1691.

WE are here informed that *Thomas Grantham*, late of *Aſhby*, and now at *Norwich*, is taxed in his Life and Converſation, and particularly about a Tup. Theſe are to ſatisfy that the ſaid *Thomas Grantham* always behaved himſelf well, and led a very good Life and Converſation amongſt us, and was always eſteemed a very honeſt Man. Witneſs,

Ben. Smith,
Edward Reed.

To the Right Worſhipful the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Norwich; *The humble Petition of* Thomas Grantham, *Inhabitant in the ſaid City.*

Doth ſhew;

THat whereas many Abuſes, Reproaches, and Affronts, have been and are daily offered to my Perſon, Name and Reputation, inſomuch that I cannot paſs peaceably in the Streets, nor be peaceable in my Habitation, nor injoy my ſelf quietly in

in my Service to Almighty God, ac
Land, by reaſon of the Rudeneſs o
of this Place, unknown to me by
Mr. *Harman's* Houſe in St. *Martins*,
is ſpred abroad, that I did ſteal
formerly lived : which Forgery I h
mony of divers of my Neighbours,
of my Innocency under their Ha
(Copies whereof I have herewith ſ
ſeeing the Rudeneſs of the People,
great in promoting that and other S
of my Life, I thought it my Du
before your Worſhips, and to beſ
you lawfully may for my Preſervat

Norwich
May 28, 1691.

And your humb

This Petition was received by the
pleaſed to ſay, they were ſatis
that he would do me Juſtice.

And ſeeing that Satan ſo violent
becauſe I endeavour to ſerve God
Miniſtry, with all poſſible Fidelity,
Deceaſe he will by ſuch baſe ways
poor (though ſincere) Labours.
Fear of God, challenge all the W
to bring a juſt Accuſation againſt n
of my Converſation, from my You
I am a Man of Infirmities (as all ar
I have been kept from all theſe t
Tongue of Infamy been ſo unwort

FINI

God, according to the Law of the
eneſs of many of the Inhabitants
me by Name; ſave that from one
Martins, at the Unicorn, a Report
id ſteal a Ram in the Place where I
gery I have detected, by the Teſti-
hbours, who have ſent Certificates
heir Hands concerning that matter,
ewith ſent to your Worſhips.) And
eople, and their Inſolency to be ſo
l other Slanders, that I go in danger
my Duty to ſpread my Complaint
to beſeech you to do for me what
reſervation from Violence.

ur humble Petitioner ſhall pray, *&c.*

ed by the Mayor of Norwich, *who was*
ere ſatisfied the Report was falſe, and
uſtice.

violently rages againſt me, meerly
e God and this Generation in my
idelity, I doubt not but after my
e ways do what he can to deface my
bours. I do therefore here, in the
the World, whilſt I am yet alive,
gainſt me, if they can, in reſpect
my Youth to this Day: For though
as all are) yet by the Grace of God,
l theſe things whereof I have by the
unworthily accuſed.

Tho. Grantham.

I N I S.